(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). Information as at the end of financial year 1991-92 is not available as the accounts for the period are not yet finalised.

(c) to (e). Foreign debt is being repaid on due dates according to the terms and conditions of each loan. The Government will ensure that this burden does not exceed the capacity of the economy to service such loans. The Government have already introduced a programme of economic reforms aimed at short-term stabilisation combined with longer terms restructuring. These reforms would improve the economics condition of the country and revitalise our growth process including our export earning capacity so as to enhance our capacity to repay the loans.

[*English*]

Development of National Highways in West Bengal

1734. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of West Bengal for the development of National Highways in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c). 45 numbers of estimates for Road/Bridge Projects on national Highways in West Bengal have been received from the Government of West Bengal during the current financial year. Out of these, 24 numbers costing Rs. 2097.24 lacs have been sanctioned. 10 numbers costing Rs. 135.17 lacs are under sanction, 3 numbers costing Rs. 1452.47 lacs have been returned due to various reasons and 8 numbers costing Rs. 2429.60 lacs are under various stages of examination in consultation with the State Public Works Department.

Tea Exports

1735. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of tea exported to the erstwhile USSR in the years 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92;

(b) the countries to which tea is exported in bulk quantities; and

(c) the prospect of tea exports during 1992-93?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Exports of tea from India to USSR during 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92 (April-January) were as follows:-

(Qty : M. Kgs.)

Year	*Quantity*
1989-90	121.87
1990-91	112.85
1991-92 (April-January)	102.04*

*Estimated

(b) UK, Iran, ARE, Poland, Saudi-Arabia, Irish, Republic, Netherlands, Germany, Yugoslavia, USA, UAE, Morocco, Japan,

Afghanistan, etc. are the major countries to which tea is exported in bulk quantities.

(c) Tea exports in 1992-93 are expected to be around 220 million kgs.

Over-Drafts Facilities to Grain Merchants

1736. SHRI S. M. LALJAN BASHA:
SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Administration has approached the Union Government to restrict overdraft facilities to grain merchants; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The advances granted against stocks of paddy/rice, wheat, pulses and other foodgrains, namely jowar, bajra, maize, barley, ragi, etc., are subject to the provisions of selective credit control of Reserve Bank of India (RBI). RBI adopts a restrictive credit policy in respect of such traders by stipulating a high margin of 75% in respect of foodgrains at present (with an exception of 60% in respect of wheat) and allowing the traders to maintain a law inventory level. Under the Selective credit control policy, the quantum of credit is controlled by fixing the minimum margin for lending and ceilings on the levels of credit. The policy in this regard is modified form time to time by RBI in such a manner as is considered appropriate to meet particular situations or to achieve the desired directional flow of credit.

[*Translation*]

Financial Assistance by BIFR to Sick Industrial Units

1737. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI SRIKANTA JENA:
SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the objectives of the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction; and

(b) the names of those sick industries in each State to whom the assistance has been provided by BIFR during each of the last three years and to whom it is proposed to be provided during the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE(SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The objective of the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) set up under the sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, is to expeditiously revive and rehabilitate potentially viable sick industrial companies and to salvage the productive assets of the non-viable sick units through their liquidation.

(b) BIFR has reported that assistance for the revival of sick industrial companies is extended by different agencies like banks, financial institutions and Central and State Government. No direct financial assistance is provided for this purpose by BIFR.

[*English*]

Setting UP of Cotton/Cotton Yarn Mills in Cooperative Sector in Bihar

1939. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state: